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The President's Daily Brief

12 December 1970

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 December 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Military activity in Laos remains at a low level. *(Page 3)*

The Soviets will host several high-level Arab delegations this month. *(Page 3)*

The Berlin talks continue to be deadlocked because the four powers are unable to agree on establishing guidelines for substantive negotiations between the two Germanies. *(Page 3)*

The Portuguese may be preparing a raid against Zambia. *(Page 4)*

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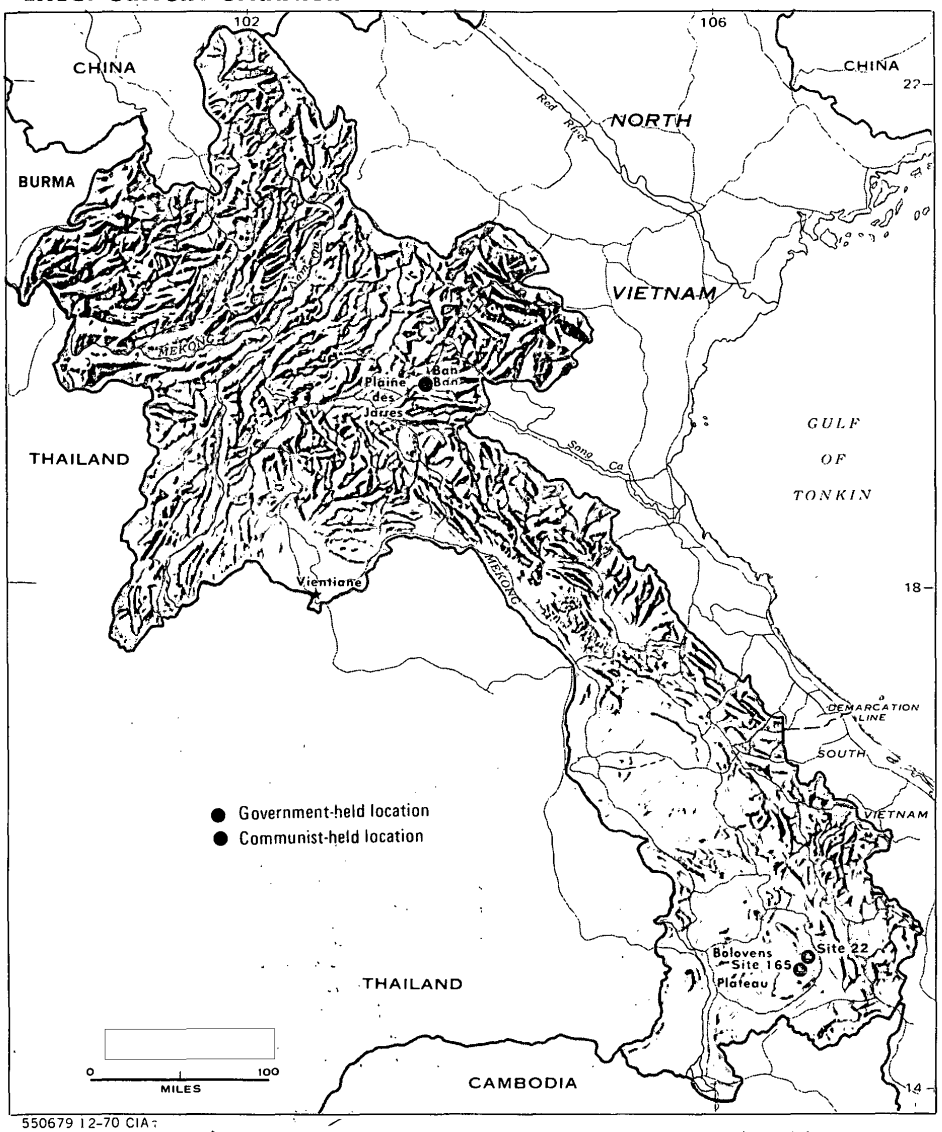
LAOS: Current Situation



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NOTES

Laos: Military activity in both the north and the south has remained relatively low since the government's successful defense last weekend of Site 22 on the eastern rim of the Bolovens Plateau. Communist probes and rocket attacks have continued both there and at nearby Site 165, but tactical air strikes have been generally successful in keeping the enemy off balance. In the north, the government harassing operation directed at the Communist logistic base at Ban Ban is moving along slowly because of poor weather and sporadic skirmishing with local North Vietnamese forces. Enemy activity west of the Plaine des Jarres also has been limited.

USSR - Middle East: Sudanese Defense Minister Abbas is visiting Moscow and will be followed by Egyptian Vice President Ali Sabri and possibly by Libyan Chief of State Qaddafi. Qaddafi reportedly will arrive on 15 December, and Sabri, accompanied by senior Egyptian military and diplomatic officials, is scheduled to arrive two days later. These visits suggest talks will center on the supply of additional arms for each of the three countries.

USSR-Berlin: Moscow is still trying to bring about direct talks on Berlin between Bonn and Pankow. At the latest four power session on 10 December, Abrasimov again proposed that the four powers instruct the Germans to begin such talks immediately without any detailed guidelines, a formulation that has been rejected by the Western ambassadors before. The Soviets undoubtedly knew their proposal would not be accepted, but they may be attempting to establish allied recalcitrance for the record. Meanwhile, the Soviets may be hoping that a solution on access will evolve from the working-level exchanges between East and West Germany which will resume later this month.

(continued)

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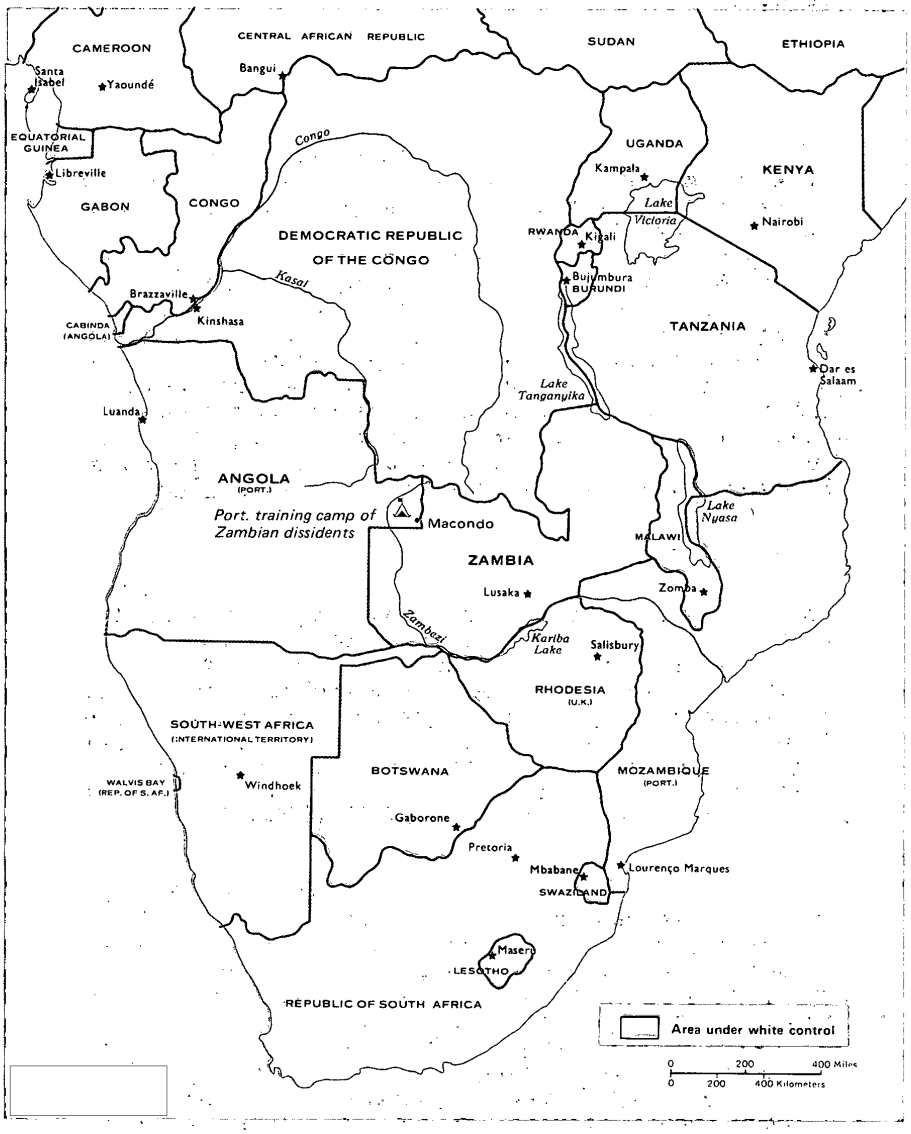

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Portugal-Zambia: We have received some further indications of a forthcoming Portuguese-sponsored military operation against Zambia that we first noted [redacted] 10 December. A Portuguese police message from a training base in Angola for Zambian dissidents places a special group of these dissidents in the border town of Macondo. The message also suggests that the leader of the dissidents will be flown from the base to the border today. These insurgents are capable of conducting a limited paramilitary operation via helicopter against Zambian border posts and staging bases of anti-Portuguese guerrillas.

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